

## Keep your distance.

Restrict access to your property and your birds. Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and make a barrier area if possible. Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them. If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds. Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases.

## Keep it clean.

Wear clean clothes, scrub your shoes with disinfectant, and wash your hands thoroughly before entering your bird area.

Clean cages and change food and water daily.

Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings, including cages and tools.

Remove manure before disinfecting.

Properly dispose of dead birds.

## Don't haul diseases home. Isolate new birds from the flock to prevent introducing new diseases

If you have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect car and truck tiers, poultry cages, and equipment before going home.

Have your birds been to a fair or an exhibition? Keep them separated from the rest of the flock for 2 weeks after the event. New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days.

## Look for signs, report sick birds, practice backyard biosecurity.

### Don't borrow disease from your neighbor.

Do not share birds, lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners.

If you do, bring these items home clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.

### Know the signs.

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea
- REPORT SICK BIRDS. *DON'T WAIT*. Call your vet, the state vet, (907) 375-8214, or **1-866-BRDFLU** for assistance.
- For more information on backyard biosecurity, go to [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/#](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/#)

Don't repeat bad words from questions

Don't discuss legal issues

Keep it short

Don't speculate

Avoid negatives

Always take the high road